

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-23, 52, 53, 55-58 and 60-62 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, 14-19, 21-23, 60 and 61 have been amended; Claims 52, 53 and 55-58 have been cancelled; and, Claims 63-82 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-23 and 60-82 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-23, 52, 53, 55-58 and 60-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,429,990 to Serrano et al. (hereinafter “Serrano”).

In response, Applicants have amended Claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, 14-19, 21-23, 60 and 61. Specifically, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, 14-19 and 21-23 have been amended to require a first timer and a second timer different from said first timer. The first timer is used to prevent data from being written for a first time period and the second timer is used to prevent data from being written for a second time period greater than said first time period. Similarly, Claims 60 and 61 have been amended to require a first timer for prohibiting write operations for an extended period of time and a second timer, different from said first timer, for prohibiting writing operations for a shortened period of time. Support for these limitations can be found at least on page 18, lines 9-10 and page 18, lines 17-20.

Applicants believe that Serrano fails to disclose first and second timers as required by Claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, 14-19, 21-23, 60 and 61. Accordingly, Applicants submit that such claims are patentably distinguishable from Serrano.

II. New Claims

Applicants have added new Claims 63-82. Such claims require operation of the first timer and operation of the second timer to overlap. Support for this limitation can at least be found on page 20, lines 6-9. Applicants believe that new Claims 63-82 are patentably distinguishable from Serrano.

III. Additional Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	43	Minus	62	= 0	x \$18 =	\$ 0.00
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	20	Minus	26	= 0	x \$86 =	\$ 0.00

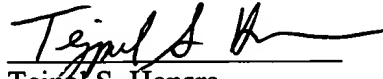
As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicants previously paid claim fees for sixty-two (62) total claims and for twenty-six (26) independent claims. Accordingly, Applicants believe that no fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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